

DIVISION: FORMS 1 - IV

AGE GROUP: 12 years plus.

SERIES: CURRENT AFFAIRS

PROGRAMME (5) "History and Culture Week"

RECORDING

TRANSMISSION: Wednesday, October 28, 1964

NARR: Hello boys and girls,

This week all Guyana is busy. There are concerts and plays and speeches. I'm sure you too are very busy at school because your school is probably doing a number of things as well. Why is all this going on? Well that's a question to which I am sure you know the answer. Yes it is ^{History and Culture} Festival Week. In Georgetown there are concerts with Guianese songs and Guianese music -- but not only in Georgetown. All up and down the country as far away as Mabaruma and deep in the Rupununi people are making music in school-buildings, children are going from one village to another to join in the singing. There are plays about Guyana on the radio and people are talking about how Guyana will develop. All this, children, is very interesting but what are we doing it for? Or put the question another way...Why do we have ^{History and Culture} Festival Week every year?

To answer this question let's have a look first at another festival - one that we all enjoy - Christmas. What happens at Christmas? Well for one thing we remember something that happened a long time ago - the birth of Christ - something in history. But Christmas is more than that, isn't it? We also remember our friends, we try to

/see them or at.....

see them or at least we send them presents and cards. But the most important thing is that we all have good feelings towards other people. Christmas makes us friendly.

History & Culture

History and Culture
Well let's go back to Festival Week. The idea of Festival Week is much the same - but there is more too.

History & Culture

You see in Festival Week we meet together to remember that we are all Guianese. Of course some of us are East Indians, or Africans or Chinese, Portuguese, Amerindians Europeans or mixed people. But we don't want to think that we are all different from one another. We want to think that above all we belong to the same country and we can't do without one another. So in History and Culture Week all the fun we have has a very serious idea behind it - We enjoy ourselves but while we are doing that we are also reminding ourselves that we are Guyanese.

Have you ever noticed what happens when you play a game with boys from another school or another village? You may not know the boys from the other school or village. But once you start playing the game you begin to feel friendly, you learn their names and they learn yours and the chances are that in a short time you are close friends. Well there are lots of things that people do together to make friends. They can sing together or be in a play together or play in a steel band together. Now if you look carefully you will see that in History and Culture Week people make a special effort to do all these things - and they feel just as people do at Christmas goodwill and friendliness to all other Guyanese.

OPR:

-----MUSIC BREAK-----

NARR: Byt boys and girls, there's much more to History and Culture Week than that. We try to remember our past - what happened a hundred or two hundred years ago. This is only natural, boys and girls. And I'm sure you often ask your teachers or your parents about life long ago, for we like to know what boys and girls did a hundred years ago. Did they like playing cricket or rounders? What fruits did they like picking? What sort of clothes did they wear? And the more we know of these things the more interested we become in Guyana. History and Culture Week is there to remind us of our history - to make us want to read more about it - and to make us try to find out things for ourselves. There is a special kind of game we can play in History and Culture Week. We can imagine we were slaves or indentured labourers on a sugar plantation in Demerara in the 19 th century. We can try to imagine we have the conchshell at 5 o'clock in the morning telling us to get up and be off to the fields. And we can make a little play about it. You try it and you'll find that you'll actually feel that you're living in the 19th century - You'll make History come alive.

And boys and girls, there's another side to History and Culture Week. We think about our way of life - our way of doing things - What grown-ups call our Culture. You see, in many ways we are a very lucky people. Most countries are inhabited by one race or at the most two races. But Guianese are of many races - six in all. However, what is important about Guyana is not that we have six peoples, but that those six peoples are making a way of life that no other country will have, or to use a big word, our way of life will be unique.

/Let's make....

Let's take one example of what is happening when the ways of the different peoples mix. Let's look at our food. Pepper-pot, curry and roti, Metagee, chow-mein, garlic pork and a host of others. Few countries in the world have such a number of lasting dishes to choose from. You can go through a whole week eating each day a dish that comes from one of the peoples of this land. Visitors to Guyana are delighted when they find so many different foods to choose from. And this is only the beginning. As time goes on there will be more and more mixing of the ways and habits of Guianese.

In History and Culture Week we look back to see how our way of life is changing and we try to think how it will grow and become something very enjoyable and beautiful. One of these days perhaps some of you will take a leading part in helping to bring the different ideas and customs of our people into one great pattern. It's just like doing a pattern with many colours. You blend and blend until you've got a pattern in which all the colours seem to get lost in one another.

So History and Culture Week is the time when we all enjoy ourselves and we think both of the past and of the future.

If we really think hard about our way of life in Guyana each year then we'll soon find that our way of life becomes something which everyone will admire. Have you ever seen a Guyana stamp with hands of different colours gripping one another in friendship? That's a good symbol of what History and Culture Week is meant to do - to get us all to grip each other in friendship and to work for a more united Guyana.

OPR:

PLAY THEME: